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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

2 Feb 54

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

EX/1/LC

NO.

EAVM 2708

DATE

29 Jan 54

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FILED		
1. RE/PC					<p>FIELD DEPT. ... PLEASE EXPEDITE</p> <p>DATE 3 MAR 1954</p>
2.					
3.					
4. RI/DP		FEB 1 1954		MR	
5. RI/AN				CRB	
6. RI/NU				RI/VI	
7. RI/HY				RI	
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15. RI/EI					

FORM NO. 31-10

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

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OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE

DISPATCH NO. EAW-2708

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

FFA 1004

TO : Chief of Mission, Vienna
FROM : Chief, FE
SUBJECT: GENERAL. Operational/0000VY
SPECIFIC. Herbert Walter Koerth

DATE: _____

Ref: EASA-2516, 16 November 1953 . 6 6 - 1 - 3

1. EAWA-5194, requested by you is entitled "Return of Receipted VSDs". We believe that you meant to refer to EAWA-5234, dated 11 April 1950, entitled "Allied Intelligence Activities in Styria." The following information is extracted from this dispatch: "According to a statement by the usually reliable journalist Herbert Walter KOERTH, (Austrian citizen, born 22 December 1917, married, Roman Catholic, residing Graz, Hermann Leons Gasse 24), a person called 'KRAMER', who serves as reception for a British intelligence unit in Graz, Marangasse, approached KOERTH with a request for help in obtaining Soviet documents and defecting Soviet soldiers. KOERTH claims to have turned KRAMER down. KOERTH is employed by a Graz branch of the FIS. He was editor of the weekly paper 'Allgemeinbistlicher Beobachter' from 12 August 1940 until its prohibition in the spring of 1949. He was indicted for slander for material appearing in his paper, but the case was never brought to trial. KOERTH has worked for the FIS for a considerable time, and his case officer for a while was a certain 'Georges' who was recalled because of alleged Soviet connections. KOERTH appeared as a witness in the trial against Georges and, on this occasion, he learned that Georges' correct name was HADENZIEFF. Georges had been a frequent visitor in the house of Dr. Bartel GRANIGO in Graz, Bernauweg 1, who is considered to be the top French intelligence man in Graz and who also heads a nationalist Albarian intelligence service working against Yugoslavia, where he met the noted Communist engineer Prince DUTRELEGER. KOERTH claims to have contacted a Frenchman, who calls himself Robert, in Hotel Krenk in March 1950 in order to discuss the reorganization of the FIS in Styria. Part of the plan agreed to between Robert and KOERTH was to send Johann ROTHMAN, Graz, Nibelungengasse 40, bei MUTZEVOKY, born 20 August 1911 in Marburg, to Yugoslavia to collect positive intelligence, with French financial support. ROTHMAN who fought the partisans during the war with a German-sponsored unit, is considered reliable by the French. According to ROTHMAN, KOERTH made a trip to Trieste in early March 1950. On his return, he stated that, before the end of March, an American official would come to Graz to organize intelligence network. When questioned by the Austrian police about this statement, KOERTH

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VIA: _____
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE

DISPATCH NO. EAW-2708
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TO : Chief of Mission, Vienna
FROM : Chief, IE
SUBJECT: GENERAL.
SPECIFIC.

DATE: FEB 2 1954

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insisted that he had nothing to do with American intelligence and that he worked solely for the French. He had spread the story about the alleged American plans in order to reorganise an intelligence system as a means of recruiting ROTHMAN for the French. Living in Graz with MOERTH, and also working for the FIS, is Ernst BERCHTOLD, born 20 August 1925 in Graz, Austrian citizen, student, single, employed as a commercial representative. BERCHTOLD works for Dr. Grunig in intelligence matters and is a member of the KPOe. The Austrian police consider BERCHTOLD to be harmless and not too bright.

2. USAE report P-01738, dated 6 July 1950: During a conversation between Emil F. DUPLITZER, Dr. von ROSEN, son of a former Director of the Credianstalt in Graz and former Abwehr officer in France, Countess CHORINSKY nee MASORHIGG and informant (W-1), various persons were discussed who had been active in the Abwehr in the Nazi East. DUPLITZER stated that Willie HAUER, former intelligence agent who deserted to the British in 1944 and working at the time in the Bundeskanzler's office in Vienna, was responsible for many of DUPLITZER's troubles in recent years and he had reason to fear that HAUER could continue to cause him trouble. ROSEN then hinted that he and DUPLITZER have connections at their disposal who could cause HAUER to disappear. On being questioned about this by informant, DUPLITZER later stated that they had been referring to Herbert MOERTH who was formerly active with the liaison staff of General MIHAILOVIC and, according to DUPLITZER, is supposed to have contacts with U. S. intelligence agencies. It is reported that MOERTH comes to Salzburg frequently but that he obviously has contacts with Soviet or Satellite agencies too. In the summer of 1949, MOERTH told USAE informant HB-1, whom he had known before, that he had received an offer to work with the GIB. He had gotten in touch with them by mail as a result of a harmless appearing advertisement in a Vienna daily newspaper. At that time, HB-1 broke off contact with MOERTH.

3. As a result of the above USAE report, Grasper was asked to question MOERTH on his contact with Emil DUPLITZER. Grasper's answer is contained in MAVA-6552 dated 11 September 1950: Emil DUPLITZER, born 12 April 1917 in

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OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: _____
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE

DISPATCH NO. EAVN-2708
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TO : Chief of Mission, Vienna

DATE: FEB 2 1954

FROM : Chief, EL

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SUBJECT: GENERAL.

SPECIFIC.

Istanbul, Austrian citizen, Roman Catholic, construction engineer and merchant residing since 1948 in Graz, Koshlbergasse 49, is at present the owner of the wholesale export-import firm Freund and Wiener, Graz, Elisabethstr. 32. MOERTH, who lived in Istanbul until 1937, knew DUPLITZER there. DUPLITZER volunteered for the Waffen-SS and eventually headed the Turkish section of the RSD in Berlin and was later sent to Istanbul from where he allegedly ran his own agents into Russia and the Caucasus. Dr. Siegmund von HOFENAU, who runs the import-export firm Johannegg-Gamsegg in Graz, Strassoldgasse 1, met DUPLITZER about three or four months ago in MOERTH's lodgings. HOFENAU is a business acquaintance of MOERTH.

4. NASA-038, dated 15 November 1950: Herbert MOERTH, as a responsible editor of the strongly right-wing paper Der (Deutsche) Oesterreicher, which was published in Vienna by a man named OVEIS, recently quit because OVEIS insisted on publishing the articles of Erich KERNHAUER (under the pseudonym of KERN).

5. NASA-212, dated 29 January 1951: Herbert MOERTH told GRASPER that he had had to break his promise not to work for any foreign intelligence agency because he needed a steady income and Grasper was no longer able to look after his interests. MOERTH had gone to work for Eduard RIGGIOLI and was now on an assignment to procure detailed Soviet OB information in the Soviet Zone of Austria. It was obvious from the way MOERTH conducted the conversation that he hoped to recruit Grasper to help him on his assignment. When Grasper made it very clear that he could not and would not help, MOERTH said that he would then have to get the information from a friend who works for CIC in Vienna (not identified by name). There was never a question of MOERTH going out to collect the information himself. RIGGIOLI allegedly admitted to MOERTH that he was working for the AID.

28 January 1954

Responsible Officer
Vied-3

COORDINATING OFFICER

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

RI-1
ER/A

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